Inland Container Depots

6092. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the Private Sector to set up Inland Container depots if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government have allowed the container Freight Station to be set up by the private sector; and

(c) if so, the details of the arrangements made thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir, The Government has decided to allow private sector to participate in the setting up, management and operation of Inland Container Depots (ICDS) and Container Freight Stations (CFSs) in India with a view to providing a degree of efficiency, productivity and competition in the operation of such ICDs/CFSs and mobilising adequate resources for their future development.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Ministry of Commerce has been set up to provide single.-windown clearance to all proposals for setting up of ICDs/CFSs)

[*English*]

Withdrawal of Interest on Cooperative Bank Loans

6093. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has suggested to the Union Government for the withdrawal to three percent additional interest on Co-operative Bank loans; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that they have not approached the Union Government suggesting the wirthdrawal of three percent additional interest on cooperative loans.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

Excise on Tourist Cars

6094. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether to tourist cards carry an excise duty at the rate of 31.5% against the normal excise of 66% charged on passenger cars;

(b) whether tourist permits are misused to evade normal excise duty; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to avoid misuse of tourist permits for purchase of cars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Saloon cars registered as taxis attract a concessional rate of 30% Basic Excise Duty + 10% Special Execise Duty of Basic Excise Duty under Notification No 162/86 dated 1.3.86, subject to the conditions specified in the said Notification as against normal duty of 60% Basic Excise Duty + 1-% Special Excise Duty of Basic Excise Duty applicable to passenger cars.

(b) A few instances of misuse of concessions have come to the notice of Government.